

**Priority Focus Area #3**  
**Structured Decision Making Model (SDM)**  
**March 2011**

There continues to be steady progress on incorporating the SDM assessment tools into Utah's child welfare practice. The language used in the assessment tools is being adapted to Utah's policy and practice language. The Children's Research Center (CRC) did some statistical analysis of a sample of Utah child welfare cases. The analysis provided direction on which assessment domains serve as the best indicators of future risk to a child.

The "GoToMeeting" format continued to be used between the CRC and DCFS to continue development of the assessments. Meetings held during the quarter were used to review revisions to the Safety Assessment and the Risk Assessment. DCFS staff from throughout the state, including workers, supervisors, administrators, trainers, and SAFE representatives, have participated in the meetings.

The next steps in the SDM project include:

- The next GoToMeeting is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> to review and edit the Risk Assessment, Risk-Reassessment, and the Reunification Assessment.
- The CRC will facilitate a 3-day workgroup in April to try and complete the SDM Risk Assessment, Risk Reassessment, and Reunification assessment. CRC staff will travel to Utah to facilitate the workgroup.